Editorial

Our media has been playing a conscious and important role against injustice, oppression, violence and all forms of human rights violations. Like in the past, media played a pivotal role in building awareness and public opinion against acid throwing in the previous year. There were reports, features, documentaries, talk shows, which strongly emphasized on the effective implementation of laws; there also were appeal made to influence those who are in the policy-making and civil society arena.

With a view to recognizing this huge spirit, ASF launched its media award program since 2005. Like the past two years, in the year 2007, ASF awarded six journalists under six categories for best contribution. At the same time, special honor was awarded to two. We express our heartfelt congratulations to all of them. We congratulate also go to all contestants of the award. All conscious people expect that mass media’s strong role will help prevent all forms of violence as well.

During the last three months, ASF took an initiative to collect funds for those acid survivors who were victim to cytocine-Sidr. Many stars, eminent institutions, and corporate houses expressed solidarity with the initiative. ASF already started support for building brick-built and tin shed houses, shops, cattle-rearing, and leasing of land.

Wonder-boy Durjoy- a victim of acid brutality! Our Durjoy is gradually getting well with his immense will power, extended support and love of conscious people, and ASF’s highest commitment regardless of logic and emotion. Durjoy can also speak now. His half-fuddled speeches increase our inspiration many times. There are many others like Durjoy who were victim to acid attack, as acid was poured into their mouths. Doctors are trying heart and soul to keep them alive. We demand exemplary punishment of the perpetrators of such brutal violence.

Above all, we express our heartfelt greetings to all readers and well-wishers of Voice.
### Statistics of Acid Attack May 1999 to June 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Number of Incidents</th>
<th>Number of persons attacked</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Men</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May-Dee:1999</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>367</td>
<td>233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2082</td>
<td>1316</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Statistics of Acid Attack 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note:  
- Report is generated as per data available in the central database of ASF.  
- Information taken from newspapers, local NGOs, local journalists, individuals and survivors who come directly to the ASF.  
- The report may not claim 100% accuracy.  
- Please mention the name of Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) as source.  
- Updated till: 31st March 2008

### ASF’s Support for Acid Survivors: January to June, 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Medical Support</th>
<th>Legal Support</th>
<th>Rehabilitation Support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>*204</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Note: The data of medical support without the support of outdoor patient

### Situation of acid attack: Top 5 districts: January to June, 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Districts</th>
<th>No of Survivors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Satkhira</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Digha</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Bogra</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Sunamganj, Tengail</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Bhola, Chittagong, Comilla, Siraganj, Faridpur, Cox’sbazar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The main program began with a choreographed presentation of the Tegor song. Acid violence not only burns human body but shatters the mind. It insults the whole nation as well. Throwing acid on one’s face is like throwing acid on the face of the nation. Therefore, everybody has to pledge that no more acid throwing will happen. With these words, discussants of the third ASF Media Award giving ceremony, organized by Acid Survivors Foundation made an urge to fight acid violence.

With a view to recognize the role of journalists in combating acid violence ASF awarded six journalists ASF Media Award 2007 for best journalism on 3 July 2008 afternoon at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Center of Sher-e-Banglanagar. Rasheda K Chowdhury, honorable Advisor for Women and Child Affairs of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh was the chief guest and Nur Mohammad, Chief Inspector General of Police (IGP) was the special guest in the award giving ceremony.

This year the winners of the awards are: Moniruzzaman Uzzal (Juganto) for best report, Ritia Vowmick (Samskara) for best feature, Munzurul Karim (NTV) for best TV reporting, Kishower Laila (Bangla Vision) for best TV program, Syed Zakir Hossain (Daily Star) for best photography and M. Aminul Islam (Jamuna Probah, Sirajganj) for best local journalism. The journalists were honored with a certificate, crest and a cheque of 30,000 taka.

Special honor was dedicated to the Daily Star for building opinion against acid violence and Shafiqul Alam Kiron for special contribution in photography. ASF Chairperson S.A.M Showket Hossain handed over an honorary crest to The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam and ASF Treasurer Parveen Mahmud delivered crest to photographer Shafiqul Alam Kiron.

Judges of the media award were: Dr. A.A.M. Shamsul Arefin Siddique, Acting Chair of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of University of Dhaka, author-publisher Mofidul Hoque; women activist and researcher Dr. Mahmuda Islam, President of National Press Club Shawkat Mahmud, President of Dhaka Journalist Union Shah Alamgir, survivor representative & member ASF Board of Trustee (BOT) Fazilatun Nessa and ASF Chairperson S.A.M. Showket Hossain.
Executive Director of the Acid Survivors Foundation Monira Rahman delivered welcome speech and described the background of ASF media award at the occasion.

The other speakers were President of the Dhaka Journalist Union Shah Alamgir, survivor representative Fazliatun Nessa; Deputy-Managing Director of the associate organizer Prime Bank Limited Mahbubul Alam, and Singer Shuvro Dev on behalf of Star Against Acid Thrower.

Tegore singer Mita Haque and reciter Quazi Arif performed in the cultural program, which ended with the performance of a choreography by Lubna Mariam and her group with the theme song – Golden human, come and wave colorful lights, see golden dreams, wooden feet round the earth, say beautiful, say beautiful, beautiful by Pancharmsur, a musical group of acid survivors. The whole program was hosted by reciter Praggwa Laboni and model Adil Hossain Nobel.

-Khaleda Yasmin Elt

---

**Member organizations of Legal Advisory Group: ‘Acid Survivors Foundation’**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Address/Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK)</td>
<td>263, Purana Paltan Line, Dhaka: 1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRAC</td>
<td>75, Monakhali, Dhaka: 1212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh National Women’s Lawyers Association (BNWLA)</td>
<td>Monico Mina Tower (2nd and 3rd Floor) 48/3, West Agargoan, Dhaka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR)</td>
<td>House: 817, Road: 4 (3rd and 4th Floor), Baitul Aman Housing Society, Adabar, Dhaka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naripokkho</td>
<td>Nilu Square (4th Floor), Plot: 1, 3, 5 (3/A), Satmoshjid Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka: 1209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jatiyo Mahila Sangshta (JMS)</td>
<td>145, New Baily Road, Dhaka</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Moments of ASF Media Award : 2007

Introduction

Chief Guest & Special Guest arriving at venue
Audience
Chief Guest observing the photo exhibition of Shafiqul Alam Kiron
Conducting the ceremony Rector, Progga Labony & Model, Adi Hassan Nobub

Speakers

(Media is closely associated with ASF since its inception & its contribution is the most behind ASF's success today.
-Monita Rahman, Executive Director, ASF)

(AFSC took a great initiative to increase social awareness with a vow to fight the society and nation from the horrors of acid violence.
-Mahbubul Alam, Deputy Managing Director, Prime Bank Ltd)

(Apart from me, many other stars are spontaneously lending a hand to acid survivors.
-Shaheen Islam, Member of Star Against Acid Thrower)

(Future journalists become more responsive, it will be possible to remove acid throwing completely from the society.
-Shah Alamgir, Judge, ASF Media Award & member BOF, ASF)

(I will be really happy if acid throwing can be stopped and there will be no need for such award.
-Moniruzzaman Azeem)

(This recognition from ASF has pushed me one step ahead to work for the people.
-Muniruzzaman Karim)

(I had to face huge troubles while doing the work. So I'm feeling great to have this recognition from ASF.
-Rita Vormack)

(I'm delighted to have received the award for the second time. For which I would like to express my sincere thanks.
-Khawar Lia)

(We want a complete elimination of such brutal violence from our society.
-Shafiqul Islam Kiron)

(If all of us come forward to support acid survivors, then it becomes much easier.
-Parveen Malisood, Treasurer, BOF, ASF)

Thanks to the Daily Star for their encouragement to work against acid violence.
-Syed Zakir Hossain)

If the survivors get proper opportunity to work, then they will be able to combat like other people.
-Distraction Alipata, Acid survivors (representative & member BOF I, ASF)
Moments of ASF Media Award: 2007

Speakers

(According to program schedule)

If we really want to take pride on our country, society, and culture, then we must uproot such brutality forever.
-Mahfuz Araman, Editor, The Daily Star

Our aim is to put an end to acid violence from the country for good.
-S.M. Shohel Hossain, Chairperson, ASF

During my professional work, I experienced the brutality surrounding acid violence. We must get rid of this brutality.
-Nur Mohammad, Spokesperson, Inspector General Police

I really find no place to hide the shame when I see that women, who have no right to live, are victims to acid violence.
-Rupnama K. Chowdhury, Chief Guard, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Prime Minister’s Office, and Culture Affairs

Award Receive

(According to program schedule)

Receiving the award, Moniruzzaman Lazzai Winner of the award for best report in print media

Receiving the award, Mozibur Rahman Winner of the award for best report in electronic media

Receiving the award, Rita Bhowmik Winner of the award for best feature in print media

Receiving the award, Kishworda Laiia Winner of the award for best TV program

Receiving the award, Md. Anirul Islam Winner of the best report in local daily

Receiving the award, Syed Zakir Hossain Winner of the award for best photography

Receiving the special award, Shafiqul Alam Korn For special contribution in photography

Receiving the Special Award, Mahfuz Araman, Editor, The Daily Star

Cultural Performance

(According to program schedule)

Performance by acid survivors

Singing Mita Haqau

Reading Kazi Arif

Performing choreography with the song Asi Sonali Moushu
Moments of ASF Media Award: 2007

Contributions to the ASF: April to June, 2008 (Alphabetically Stated)

Organizations:
- AAmara Group of Companies
- Abdul Monem Ltd.
- Bank Asia Ltd.
- Car House
- Coats Bangladesh
- Dhaka Club Ltd.
- Express One Ltd.
- Expressions Ltd.
- Image Action International
- International Finance Corporation
- JCI Bangladesh
- Khadim Ceramics Ltd.
- Mirpur Ceramics Ltd.
- Nita Co. Ltd.
- Samah Razor Blades Industries Ltd.
- Square Toiletries Ltd.
- Standard Chartered Bank
- Ward Telecom

Individuals
- Abdur Rahman
- Abul Kalam
- Adv. Seema Zahur
- Amjad Khan
- Angele Vander Heijden
- Arshadul Huq
- Ayesha Rahim
- Brig. Gen. Sharif Aziz
- Farhad
- Ferit Ergin
- Humaira Fatima Hamim
- Iqbal Hossain
- Juan Carlos Negrette
- Kevin Patrick Ringham
- Kh. Rashidul Ahsan
- Kumar Bishwajit
- Lubna Hossain
- Mahjabin Masood
- Moonmoon Ahmed
- Neil Marius Jacobsen
- Philip Chowdhury
- Poppy Akhter (Bobita)
- Renata Dessallien
- Samina Chowdhury
- Shamsul A. Khan
- Sharmeen Reja Chowdhury
- Shuvro Dev
- Tahia Khalil
- Wali Bhuiyan
- Zaheera Noor Shikdar
- Zeenat Alom

(Information source: Finance Unit, ASF)
Photo feature: Durjoy

Wonder-boy Durjoy - a victim of acid brutality! Our Durjoy is gradually getting well with his immense will power, extended support and love of conscious people, and ASF’s highest commitment regardless of logic and emotion.

Durjoy can also speak now. His half-uttered speeches increase our inspiration many times.

Durjoy first came to ASF Hospital from Jessore when he was only 16 months old.

Durjoy in operation treatment.

Durjoy stretching his hands to save his life.

Durjoy with his mother Eti Rani and father A. Sutchi Kumar at a press conference. (After a successful treatment from Hong Kong)

Durjoy taking regular physiotherapy at ASF Hospital.

Durjoy in exercise.

Exposing physiotherapy.

Durjoy showing he can carry the world.

Dancing Durjoy.

Durjoy getting familiar with Bangla alphabets.

Painting a dream with his mother.

Durjoy in art class with other acid burnt children.

A happy Durjoy with other children survivors.

Little Durjoy climbing a critical stair of life.

Durjoy demonstrating how he conquered the pain.

Durjoy with his mother, Judge Shah Alamgir & best reporting award winner Moniruzzaman Ullah (During ASF Media Award).
Like many other families in the coastal areas, many acid survivors’ families also got devastated by the cyclone-Sidr that ravaged Bangladesh on 15 November 2007. A fundraising ceremony was organized by ASF on 20 April 2008 at the residence of outgoing British High Commissioner Anwar Chowdhury who invited respected individuals to lend a hand to acid survivors. Among the invited were film actress Bobita, actor Mahfuz Ahmed, model Nobel, dance-artist Moonmoon Ahmed, singer Kumar Biswajit, Shuvro Dev, Samina Chowdhury, Fakir Alamgir, dramatist Ramendra Majumder and other individuals and organizations. Representatives from different national & international NGO & donor agencies were also present during the program. Anwar Chowdhury remarked that, acid violence has decreased a bit, but we intend to completely remove it.
Training workshop on empowerment of the facially disfigured persons conducted by psycho-social unit

Face is the mirror of beauty - this conventional way of considering one's beauty is very painful for an acid victim, and no one but a victim can realize this pain. However, one can flourish his/her beauty through the personality and performance. Acid Survivors Foundation is working on acid violence and facial disfigurement. As a part of its work, on 22 June 2008, psycho-social unit of ASF organized a day-long training workshop on Empowerment of the facially disfigured in association with Changing Faces, an organization of England. James Partridge, a burn survivor and founder of Changing Faces facilitated the workshop.

Representatives of different organizations including 15 representatives from ASF participated at the workshop. ASF organized this workshop on the launching of a community-based psycho-social service to support acid survivors to live a life with dignity in the society and for changing the attitude of the society regarding facial disfigurement. Following the training session ASF & partner org members committed to initiate movement on 'Face Equality'
ASF stands beside Sidr-affected acid survivor Fahima

Some perpetrators threw acid onto Fahima Akhtar Rina of Nurulapar village of Morelganj Thana in Bagerhat district - a consequence of land dispute. Rina’s whole face including the right eye was severely burnt. She was given medical care from ASF. Despite physical recovery, Fahima lost her mental strength to return to her previous life. And before going back to normal life, Fahima lost everything including the last shelter of her father's hut in the devastating cyclone Sidr on 15 November 2007. Fahima started living in a polythene-covered room with her parents and two children.

ASF came forward to rescue her from that situation. On 15 May 2008, Fahima was handed over to a tin shed brick-built room, sanitary latrine and a grocery shop worth taka one lakh thirty nine thousand four hundred and thirty one - a financial support by ASF in association of BRAC. The following guests were present at the rehabilitation program: ASF Chairperson Monira Rahman, Program Head Dr. Faisal Mahmud, TNO of Bagerhat’s Morelganj Thana Mr Krishnakanta Biswas, Deputy Director of Bagerhat Social Welfare Directorate Md. Khodab, BRAC Khulna divisional representative S.S. Jagdish Chandra Roy and other officials.

In her speech Monira Rahman made an appeal to all high government officials as well as local elite people to stand beside Fahima. Morelganj TNO promised to bear the educational expenses including the security of Fahima’s daughter. Mr. Khodab assured to provide other governmental support. Mr. Showket Hossain made an appeal to provide governmental support for the education of Fahima’s daughter. In the same way, he requested everybody to raise the voice against such an awful form of violence like acid throwing.

-Fatema Pervin Putul

Moments of workshop with ASF partner NGOs on local conflict resolution & psychosocial support being implemented with the support from European Commission.
Click: Eminent photo journalists are also with us to stop acid violence

Photo: Zia Islam, Prothom Alo

Photo: Munir uZ Zaman, New Nation

Photo: Khaled Sarker, Prothom Alo

Photo: Kabir Hossain, Prothom Alo

Editorial Section
Advisory Editor: Monira Rahman / Editor: Md. Faisal Mahmud / Executive Editor: Pelach Chowdhury / Managing Editor: Khaleda Yasmin Eli

Photography
Shafiqul Alam Kiron, Syed Zakir Hossain, Abir Abdullah & ASF Photo Gallery

Coordination & Layout
Research, Advocacy & Prevention Unit

Publishing
Acid Survivors Foundation

Design: BBDOOAK Print: Romask Ltd.

Please send your opinions to
VOICE
House 12, Road 22, Block K, Banani, Dhaka
Tel: 8881054, 988224, 0171020625
Hotline: 01713-089561 Fax: 09881830
Email: voice@acidsurvivors.org
Supported by
Manusher Jonno
Jonaki Foundation